

Emergency Powers Decision Report



Approval of Grant Funding Agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority -
ABEN

Oldham
Council

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Housing Services

Directorate: Communities

Report Author: Neil Consterdine

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Date of Decision: 15th July 2026

1. Power to make the decision

The decision is being taken under the authorisation contained in Section 9C – Delegations to Specific Officers of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council Constitution for the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting.

2. Decision Sought

This report requests an approval to enter into a grant agreement with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Under the proposed arrangement, Oldham will hold its own grant agreement with the Combined Authority to fund two services dedicated to supporting residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness namely A Bed Every Night (ABEN) - Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) and Navigator.

Oldham has been allocated grant funding to support these services, ensuring continuity of services. The funding will enable the ongoing delivery of targeted support for residents who are homeless, helping to prevent rough sleeping, improve engagement, and provide timely interventions aligned with local homelessness prevention priorities across Oldham communities.

3. Reason for urgency

To ensure the continuation of these vital local services and to formalise monitoring and reporting arrangements, the Council is required to enter into a grant agreement with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). Securing this agreement is necessary for accessing the funding needed to sustain services delivery.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

If we do not accept this grant agreement the Council would be unable to deliver the ABEN, RSI and Navigator services. There would be significant increase in numbers of rough sleepers in Oldham during a period of significant homelessness across the region which is further exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis.

This in turn would significantly reduce local capacity to prevent and respond to rough sleeping and would likely lead to an increase in the number of people sleeping rough in Oldham. This risk is heightened by ongoing pressures within the housing system and the wider impacts of the cost-of-living crisis.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

The grant agreement will ensure that the Council continues to receive the funding required to support the cost of services. There have been no financial pressures arising as a result of the arrangements to date, and this should continue to be the case as long as costs are kept within the levels of grant provided

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name: Lee Walsh

Date 7th July 2026

Comments

This report requests an approval to enter into a grant agreement with the GMCA. The grant agreement will ensure that the Council continues to receive the funding required to support the cost of services. For 2026/27, the confirmed grant allocations are, A Bed Every Night £391k and Rough Sleeping Initiative £185k.

This report outlines a renewal of the current working arrangement and as in previous years it is fully expected that the costs will be in line with the grant received by GMCA therefore no additional financial pressure on the service.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name: Alex Bougateff

Date 7th July 2026

Comments

The exercise of emergency powers should be undertaken in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council. However, the Council has not yet appointed a Leader or Deputy Leader for the current municipal year, it is therefore not possible to consult them. In addition, there is no certainty about when a Leader or Deputy Leader will be appointed as the Council has failed at three successive meetings to do so. For the reasons given in the report an urgent decision relating to the report is required and it cannot await the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader at some undetermined future date.